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THE
MONTHLY



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MY GULL

BULLETIN

Volume 47

Berkeley, Calif.

June 1965

Number 6

MOTT TO SPEAK ON BAY AT ANNUAL DINNER

Guest speaker at our annual dinner **Thursday, June 10**, will be William Penn Mott, Jr., President of the Save San Francisco Bay Association. His topic will be "Is the Bay for the Birds?"

At the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, May 23-25, Mr. Mott was Chairman of the Panel on Rehabilitation of Landscapes.

This year the dinner will be held in the COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB, 2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (Please note that this is a change from the place mentioned in the May *Gull*.) The College Women's Club is near the corner of College Ave. and Bancroft Way, close to public transportation.

The dinner will begin **promptly at 6:30**. A social half-hour will precede the dinner from 6 to 6:30 with punch to be served in the lounge. The price of the dinner will be \$3.50, tax and tip included. A reservation form is printed at the end of this issue of *The Gull* to facilitate making reservations promptly. This form must be accompanied by a check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mailed to Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson, 4 Willow Lane, Kensington, Calif., 94707. **The reservation deadline is Monday, June 7.**

—THOMAS B. WILLIAMSON, Program Chairman

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

Saturday, June 5, Fleishhacker Zoo and beach areas, San Francisco. Bank swallow, a bird of unique nesting habit, will be the main attraction. After birding in and around the zoo, a walk will be made along the beach to observe the swallows nesting in the banks bordering the shoreline. Come prepared to walk in the sand. Meet at the north entrance to the zoo on Sloat Blvd. at **9:15** a.m. Leader, Miss Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4168.

Tuesday, June 8, MacDonald Trail in Grass Valley Regional Park and lower Stream Trail in Redwood Regional Park, Oakland. Meet at MacDonald Trail at **9:15** a.m. If you do not know the way or do not have a car, meet at **9** a.m. near the church on the corner of Mountain Blvd. and Redwood Rd., Oakland. A/C bus No. 15 stops on Mountain Blvd. at Anderson Ave., two blocks beyond 35th Ave. and one block from the church. The N bus from San Francisco connects with the A/c bus No. 15 at Randolph and MacArthur Blvd. Check with A/C Transit for the June schedule. Bring lunch. Co-leaders, Mrs. Phyllis Zweigart, 526-7295, and Mrs. Vi Homem, 655-8886.

Saturday, June 19, Strawberry Canyon, Berkely. Meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance to the UC Botanical Gardens. The habitat, some man-made and some natural, attracts a large variety of birds. Hummers can be seen at close range. The calls and songs of Swainson's thrush, western wood pewee, olive-sided flycatcher, black-headed grosbeak and finches will probably be heard. Leader, Miss Patricia Tiggard, OL 5-8567.

Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, to Beth Snyder's cabin at Clark Station in the northern Sierra, elevation 6,200 feet, and to marsh area near Marble's Hot Springs in the Sierra Valley east of Yuba Pass. The best route is by Interstate Highway 80 to Truckee, then by Highway 89 to Sattley. Approximately one mile northwest of Sattley, turn left on Highway 49 and cross Yuba Pass. Clark Station Summer Homesite is two miles west of Yuba Pass. The route by way of Highway 49 was partly washed out again by winter rains and is a one-way road in various places. Best accommodations: Sierra Buttes Inn, Sierra Chalet Motel, Pense Motel, all in Sierra City. Best camping: Chapman Creek Campground one mile west of Clark Station. Meet at the Snyder cabin at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday. For Sunday meet on Hiway 49 at Clark Station 6:30 a.m. Leader, Mrs. David P. Snyder.

Proposed trip for long-range planning: **Saturday and Sunday, July 24-25,** to California Alpine Club's Echo Summit Lodge at Echo Summit in the Sierra about 180 miles from Bay Area. Many birds of Canadian and Transition zones may be seen here. From Sacramento take Highway 50 through Placerville to sign reading Echo Lakes. Turn off highway and go to end of road one mile. Greyhound travelers get off at Little Norway and walk one mile. Accommodations at the Lodge are limited. Approximate cost for dinner, over-night lodging and breakfast is \$6.00 per person for dormitory accomodations and \$14.00 for two in a room with two beds. Bring your own bedding or sleeping bag. **Reservations must be made before June 30.** Make check payable for full amount to Echo Summit Lodge and mail with *self-addressed, stamped envelope* to Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson, 4 Willow Lanc, Kensington, Calif., 94707. Campers may camp at the Firs, a public campground near by. Meet at Lodge at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. Sunday. Leader, Miss Patricia Triggs, MO 4-8502. Hostess, Mrs. Betty Thrasher, EM 8-4457 (Redwood City).

Note: Our next boat trip will be off Monterey, Saturday, August 28.

—MRS. VALERIA DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Many Golden Gate Audubon members attended the Sierra Club's Ninth Biennial Wilderness Conference held April 2-3-4 at the San Francisco Hilton. Your Conservation Chairman could attend only Saturday, the second day, but this day yielded much food for thought and a good perspective of speakers and attendance. While all the words and philosophies were inspiring, we thought Prof. Alfred Lepawsky sounded the greatest challenge to our "conservationist group" thinking and outlook when he spoke of the future needs of American minorities and the probable impact of their voting on outdoor recreation and conservation issues. He warned that "resource management and the welfare of our fellow man" will become dominant factors in future planning, rather than the "purist purposes" of many

present conservationists. As we scanned the composition of the vast audience at this conference—like that at a typical Audubon convention—we could see a real basis for the Professor's remarks.

A considerably smaller but rapt audience of the Sunday Marin tour of the Conference gathered at the Mountain Theatre to hear noted park expert William Penn Mott, Jr. speak briefly on Bay Region park needs and problems. Mott explained the urgency of current Save San Francisco Bay measures, the need for hiking and riding trails around the Bay, a Master Plan for the Delta, and his own East Bay Regional Park expansion plans. He also emphasized the critical need of interpretive, educational services for appreciation and protection of public lands and closed with a warning to his listeners that they beware of "talking to themselves" instead of selling their cause to all.

Recent hearings at Alameda on the proposed Bay Farm Island fill, which would destroy the McCartney Marsh, brought new forces into the forefront. Hugo Fisher of the State Resources Agency, a representative of the Department of Fish and Game, and a University of California biologist testified in opposition, while the Port of Oakland reaffirmed its opposition to such a development in the path of the jet flight takeoffs.

Filling of this marsh and tideland might also shift numbers of shorebirds over into the jet takeoff paths. As Golden Gate Audubon's representative, Mrs. Elsie Roemer gave an excellent presentation of this problem. More recent findings on the earthquake hazards to buildings on filled lands and testimony from sanitation experts on the value of shallow, marginal areas to properly purify bay waters were also brought forth at these hearings.

Administrator Hugo Fisher of the Resources Agency of California and Director Walter Shannon of the Dept. of Fish and Game have expressed willingness to sponsor a meeting of Audubon representatives with the various parties concerned with the Sespe Creek (Reclamation) Project. There is still hope that there might be an alternative to the proposed Topatopa Dam and the huge recreational lake almost touching the boundaries of the Condor Sanctuary. -- PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET ON CALIFORNIA CONDOR

As part of National Audubon Society's program of helping to save the rare California condor from extinction, a new illustrated educational pamphlet has just been issued. A description of the condor's appearance and flight pattern is presented, as well as facts on feeding and nesting habits. A map indicates where the last 40 individual birds live in the southern California Coast Ranges near Santa Barbara.

The brochure points out, as we learned from recent National Audubon Society research, that these birds are not declining from breeding failures or from lack of food. Unlawful shooting of the birds by hunters exceeded the breeding successes and pushed the species to the brink of extinction. Only widespread public knowledge of the condor can hope to help reduce

the number of condor fatalities, could with the continued strict protection of the condor breeding areas. As with the whooping crane, only the informed cooperation of all people will permit the California condor to restore its numbers. The pamphlet is available at ten cents per copy or twelve copies for one dollar.

Georg Treichel's outstanding series of television programs on *The Nature of Conservation* are being repeated on KQED, Channel 9, Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.

SAVE BAY FARM ISLAND

State officials seem to agree that Bay Farm Island is the critical situation in the effort to save San Francisco Bay. They have been very complimentary about the results achieved so far and urge that there be no relaxation of effort. Several Audubon members have asked recently whether more funds are needed. The answer is yes. Compiling documentary evidence to present to the Army Engineers has been expensive. Contributions in any amount will be most welcome. Please send them to Mrs. Dorothy Rutherford, 1714 Pearl St., Alameda, California. — ELSIE ROEMER, *The Alameda Woman's Civic Affairs Committee*

FOR THE CHILDREN

The next and last field trip of the season will meet at Canyon Ranch on **Saturday, June 12** at 11 a.m. We are starting at this late hour to allow people to drive over but we expect to start promptly. Bring your lunch and after the morning walk up the Garden Club Canyon, we will all get together and see how many ideas we have come upon during the walk. Your friends are invited, but all adults should be escorted by a child or group of children.

To drive to Canyon Ranch take Route 101 from Sausalito. When you come to the Richardson Bay Bridge take the right fork *underneath* the bridge and turn left where the road to Stinson Beach leads off. This is Route 1. Follow this route to the top of the hill, then take the right fork marked Muir Woods and Tamalpais, but do *not* go down the road marked Muir Woods but continue straight along until you reach Stinson Beach. From here follow the shore route (No. 1) until you come to Audubon Canyon Ranch on the right. This trip will be led by Mrs. Nickelsburg.

The History of San Francisco Bay

Have you ever thought how the land you walk on has come into being? It wasn't always there, you know. Hills do not last forever and lakes dry up, lagoons fill in, mountains wash away and oceans sweep in to form bays.

A very long time ago, about 15,000,000 years, the Pacific Ocean covered all the land from where Berkeley now stands and spread as far east as the Sierra Nevada. This formed then a great inland sea whose outlet to the ocean no one has ever found. The place where San Francisco now stands was then a strip of land bordering the ocean on the east. From this strip of land and from the Sierra Nevada there were streams that ran into the inland sea, carrying sand, gravel and lava from volcanoes which were at that time active in the mountains to the east. As this material gradually

filled in the inland sea a broad valley-plain was formed that ran then from the Sierra to Berkeley. This was about 6,000,000 years ago. Everywhere on this flat plain were giant animals, mastodons, camels, rhinoceroses, ancient horses, rabbits, beavers and antelopes.

After a while a tremendous change took place. The land was pushed and crumpled into huge folds, pressed together until the Coast Range rose in sharp and rugged peaks. But the streams, continuing to flow and wash down sand and gravel, wore away these sharp edges and peaks. This brings us to a time about 2,000,000 years ago. Then not more than a few hundred thousand years afterwards the Berkeley Hills started to rise and the land between Berkeley and San Francisco to sink and to form a long valley where the Bay is now located. This valley extended then all the way from Sonoma to Gilroy. About 1,000,000 years ago the floor of this valley was high above the level of the ocean. There were several rivers running through it, one of these being the Sacramento and San Joaquin River, flowing as one, with great swiftness through the Carquinez Straits, and between Richmond and what is now Angel Island but was then Angel Mountain. Another river flowed northward between a ridge underneath the Bay Bridge on the west and Yerba Buena Island on the east and still another stream ran down what is now Market Street in San Francisco.

And now we come to the last of the changes when the ocean rose after the melting of the ice which had covered all the northern United States during the Ice Ages. The water level now became high enough to drown much of the coast line and to flood the valley as far north as Suisun Bay. This flooding by the sea all happened within the memory of men, for Indians living at that time left huge mounds of shells along the edges of the Bay and their descendants told stories of the fearful flood that had happened in their great-great grandfather's days long ago.

—JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BAY FARM ISLAND — Eight hardy Auduboners braved the cold, blustery weather on April 10 to meet at Lincoln Park in Alameda. Shore birds were seen to good advantage from the Alameda side of the Bay Farm Island bridge, but the group was glad to go to more sheltered places off Doolittle Road. By arrangement with Oakland Airport authorities, the section of the airport where burrowing owls nest was visited. Two owls were seen. Cinnamon teal, a mallard duck with fledglings, and dowitchers were in or near ponds at the edge of the airport. Spring plumage of birds excited comment along Doolittle Road — black-bellied plovers, avocets, an eared grebe, a male pheasant. A total of 47 species was recorded for the day.

Sunny weather the next day brought out a group of 22. Golfers and boating enthusiasts had replaced some of the birds seen the day before, but other species appeared and a total of 64 was recorded. Again burrowing owls, four of them, were viewed near their nest holes. Two rabbit skeletons near by aroused comment.

Species recorded in Alameda and on Bay Farm Island during the two days included Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common and Snowy Egret; Mallard, Scaup, Bufflehead, Canvasback, and Ruddy Ducks, Cinnamon Teal, and Surf Scoter; Turkey Vulture, Ring-necked Pheasant, Coot, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Snipe, Ruddy Turnstone; Willet, Knot, Least and Western Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit. Also, Sanderling, Avocet, Glaucous-winged, Western, California, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte Gull; Forster's and Caspian Tern, Rock and Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker; Western Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Barn and Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit; Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling; Orange-crowned Warbler, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird; House Finch, American Goldfinch, Oregon Junco, Brown Towhee; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow. — ELSIE ROEMER, *Leader*

McCoy RANCH — On the May 1 and May 2 field trips to the McCoy Ranch near Livermore a total of about 50 people saw 62 species. In addition to the birds seen every year on this trip, was a pair of Cassin's kingbirds spotted by Ted Chandik on the Sunday trip, May 2. The birds were feeding close to the road near the McCoy Ranch on the Livermore side. On both days a yellow-breasted chat was seen. On Saturday, May 1, a golden eagle appeared. — AILEEN PIERSON, *Leader on May 2.*

Twenty people went on the 6 a.m. trip to Patterson Pass, May 1.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

"On April 30, while Eleanor Hebard and I were watching about 75 terns at the junction of Shoreline Drive and Westshore in Alameda, 35 knots came promenading along the beach from the east. We had a most unusual opportunity to observe their bright spring plumage and their behavior, which is certainly quite different from that of the dowitchers they resemble. The following day I saw about half a dozen knots in the mudflats of Bay Farm Island. The previous week end (April 24) Enid Austin and I had seen about half a dozen knots settle near a shallow pond alongside the highway between Fairfield and Rio Vista. In the same marshy area Enid and I saw several dozen black-necked stilts and a single bittern." — Elsie Roemer.

In San Leandro on March 10 Gladys Conklin saw a yellow-shafted flicker in her apricot tree. He spent about three minutes preening his feathers, giving her a good view of the red crescent on the back of his head.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Albany, Miss Margo Lawson; from Berkeley, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Burch, Mrs. Dorothy Duffield, Mr. William K. Fox, Mrs. Bethel G. Hatch, Miss Nancy F. Kahn, Mr. E. Lowe, Mr. William W. Mather, Miss Joan McIntyre, Miss Elizabeth M. Nissen, Mr. M. H. Segal, Mrs. Winifred Thomas; from Castro Valley, Mr. George K. Eastman; from Concord, Mr. Henry C. Warren, Jr.; from Lafayette, Mr. Bernard Van Horne; from Oakland, Miss Cathy Clark, Mrs. Robert R. Crosbie, Mr. John M. Fitz, Mrs. Robert F. Hitchcock, Miss

Dorothy McNiff, Mr. Gay Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Redepenning; from Orinda, Mrs. E. S. Liesy, Miss Ann Sibury, Mr. S. I. Thoolen, Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Wagner; from Piedmont, Mr. Glenn R. Harrison; from Richmond, Mr. William E. Siri, Mr. H. L. Vaughan; from San Francisco, Miss Georgia M. Casey, Mrs. George DeSalvatore, Mrs. H. Eloesser, Mrs. K. G. Flynn, Mrs. Frederick B. Higbie, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kinney, Mr. John T. Kinney, Mrs. L. G. Jones, Mr. William Olds, Sr., Mrs. Geri Orosco, Miss Harriet T. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Seaver, Mr. Jacob Sigg; from San Leandro, Mr. Gary Nicholson; from San Pablo, Mrs. R. D. Robbins.

— MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman*

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Harold G. Peterson	Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather, Rofena Lewis
Edith Potter	California Alpine Club
Joseph Shroyer	Dr. and Mrs. Jefferson Larkey
Emma Vranna	Blanche Vranna, Mr. and Mrs. Neill Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Herzinger, Mrs. Lorraine Vranna Nelson
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Mabel Irene Shafer	Lois Shafer
Harriet Wood	Miss Helen G. Roller
Elinor Wood	Miss Helen G. Roller

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

Note: Non-memorial contributions to Canyon Ranch may be sent to Audubon Canyon Ranch, P.O. Box 2113, San Francisco, Calif. 94126.

RESERVATION FORM FOR JUNE 10 DINNER

Please use the following reservation blank for the June 10 dinner, which will be \$3.50, including tax and tip. Reservations must reach Marjorie Atkinson by **Monday, June 7**, and must be accompanied by a check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society.

MISS MARJORIE M. ATKINSON
4 Willow Lane
Kensington, Calif. 94707

Enclosed is my check for \$..... to cover reservations for the Golden Gate Audubon Society's annual dinner on Thursday, June 10, at the College Women's Club, Berkeley.

Name

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.			

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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